



FASHION INTERNATIONAL

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD

Volume XXXIV Issues 4 & 5

ANOTHER OPENING, ANOTHER SHOW SPRING '08 RUNWAY REPORT

The spring 2008 shows were a mixed bag. We saw some collections that were fanciful works of art, others that were spot on interpreting the season's major trends and others that just fell flat. After a winter's worth of grays and darks, it was a pleasure to find a return to color, from acid shades of orange and green to misty Jordan almond pales and primary hues. For the most part, volume has been controlled to more wearable proportions,

although floaty separates were still in evidence, particularly in the collections skewed to the younger customer. Wide leg trousers have replaced skinny pants with the emphasis on the high belted waistline. Ladylike, more polished dressing (first seen in Marc Jacobs' fall collection) also made a comeback with references from the '20s through the '70s apparent throughout the shows. Embellishment continues; with stones, beadwork and embroidery adding a final luxurious touch day or night.

continued on page 2

SWIM 2008 - PART I

The Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Miami Swim & The Miami Convention Center Show

IMG Fashion and their lead sponsor, Mercedes-Benz, did a great job of putting together the best group of swim shows yet at the annual IMG Swim Week. As always, the event tents were located poolside at the Raleigh Hotel in South Beach, Miami. Swim and cruise designers

were also showing their latest collections to buyers and press just down the street at the Miami Convention Center, conveniently giving all an opportunity to view collections that did not appear on the Mercedes-Benz runways. Some, like Gideon Oberson, chose to show at the Convention Center this season rather than at the Raleigh.

This cruise 2008 season had something for everyone, from

continued on page 3



ABAETE

MONIQUE LHUILLIER's creations literally floated down the runway. This designer's extremely feminine approach didn't disappoint her legions of fans. Her forté is evening wear and, for spring, a color palette of vanilla, mint, latte, pistachio and butterscotch was whipped into elaborately draped and embroidered confections of silk tulle, organza and chiffon. Red carpet worthy — the mousseline chiffon draped gowns, the greige charmeuse gown with embroidery and a fairytale charmer in nude illusion tulle with tiered skirt and hand painted flowers.

LAUNDRY's charmingly youthful collection was shown to best advantage in an informal showroom presentation. This revamped collection, divided into two sections (Belle de Jour and Paris Flea Market), brought a designer aesthetic to contemporary price points created by a talented design team. We found lots to love, particularly the slew of pretty dresses, such as the broken stripe pleated silk shirt-dress; the silk georgette, V-neck slip dress; the crinkle chiffon "slip" and the swingy silk, horizontal pin dot. Also, there were crisp separates that caught our eye. First and foremost was a group in stretch gabardine offered in indigo, khaki, white and powder blue. The cropped double-breasted jacket paired with either wide leg pants or walking shorts stood out.

To quote CAROLINA HERRERA, "this collection is a lavish

expression of a woman's love for color and drama." The ladies who lunch and their younger counterparts will fall for her layers of devore organza, printed gazar and lacquered chiffon treated to a palette of pool blue, pear green, brick, clementine and peony, while embellished with raffia, paillettes and sculpted feathers. Standouts: Herrera's beige and gold jersey halter dress with black sequins and feather embroidered detail, a full-skirted strapless floral faille dress with appliqué embroidery and a striped jersey cardigan tossed over a floral embroidered silk gazar dress.

MICHAEL KORS knows what ladies want and he always delivers: sexy, sporty, all-American classics for those whose home turf revolves around the Hamptons and Palm Beach. His lime cashmere Lurex pullover with flamingo pink silk lamé pleated skirt and the violet cashmere elongated cardigan and T-shirt gown belted in gold exemplified this lifestyle. More daring was Kors' combination of a gold bullion brocade tunic atop white shorts — perfect for cocktail hour on a yacht.

Miami Deco met a young and proper CZ Guest in ABAETE's terrific spring collection. We loved the graphic color banded dresses in stretch silk or cotton, particularly designer Laura Poretzky's black/deco pink/sand number, her simple '60s sheath in black/teal/white stretch silk with gently gathered skirt, the teal silk frock with halter twist neckline and a fabulous

navy dress in supple as silk perforated leather belted in white. In our opinion this was Abaete's best collection to date.

LACOSTE's creative director, Christophe Lemaire was inspired by the chic, sporty elegance of the Lacoste lifestyle. Tradition, however, didn't take a back seat to design. The collection was fresh, spirited and a testament to the brand's heritage. After a series of sun-bleached washed denims and faded pastels, it took a nautical turn with '30s Biarritz chic high-waist pants, shorts and fitted striped polos. Halter dresses with vivid pimento red or black piping worn with platform wedge espadrilles complemented a floor-length sleeveless polo and a cute pleated mini tennis dress. Equally adorable, red cotton cropped pea jacket worn over red/white dotted mini and the white on gray dotted sleeveless shift.

PORTS traveled to East Africa for inspiration. A diverse mix of mud cloth, tie-dye and neo-safari shapes cleverly blended contemporary influences with traditional styles in a collection that was unique. Gingham and poplin fabrics were contrasted with gold matelasse and polished silk and translated into strikingly sophisticated wrapped, twisted and folded silhouettes. The result — garments that were molded into organic shapes drawing attention to the shoulder line while keeping the body linear, tubular or cinched. Standouts included a graphite coat and crop trousers, belted in mud color lame; an easy

the skimpy sexy styles at Ashley Paige for Girls Gone Wild and the racy metallic maillots at Shay Todd, to the sophisticated styles found at Gideon Oberson and DE & DR. Whoever thought that there couldn't be showmanship at swim shows had only to watch the Red Carter show, in which Miami's favorite designer teamed up with hair star Oribe and his team for the show. The hair, the concept, the swimsuits and cover-ups resulted in a show with the fun and flair associated with a John Galliano or Betsey Johnson show. We also highlight a few more of the most noteworthy hair and makeup looks of the week.

GIDEON OBERSON - Miami Convention Center

Mr. Oberson showed his latest cruise wear on a mini catwalk in a secluded cabana set up in the back of the spacious Convention Center. The show kicked things off with eco-inspired bamboo leaf and raffia prints from the new Gideon Oberson Private Collection. "Genius is in the details" applied here; the spider web backs on the maillots and cats cradle straps on the fronts were at once technically impressive and aesthetically pleasing. Next came the extensive Gideon Oberson Collection, consisting of 15 story groupings. Standouts were the scarlet bull's-eye "Spiral" group; "techno", overblown red and blue peonies on a newsprint background; "coffee bean", large flower petals in parrot bright colors and coffee beans that popped on a white background. For those who prefer solids, the pieces in the "Paloma" segment are a sure bet. The mink brown and olive twist

front maillots reminded us of the classically stylish leotards and wrap tops worn by ballerinas. Best in the group is the "Wrap Around Shirt" in mink, an item that would easily transition from the pool to dinner out. Mr. Oberson always delivers great cover-ups, such as the ankle length caftan in an orange and gray "firecracker" print, and the Short Kimono Blouson in black and brown from the "Chestnut" group. And finally, there was the halter neck tankini in "Echo", an abstract art print of aquamarine and kiwi stripes over a gray and black nuage background. Mr. Oberson's show

raised the bar for the shows that would be seen at the Raleigh during the next three days.

ROSA CHA

We had a few words with Rosa Cha designer, Amir Slama before he presented his cruise 2008 collection poolside to buyers, press, and industry VIPs. Rather than the typical seated runway show, Mr. Slama had the models walk about the pool deck in an informal modeling format, which worked beautifully with the laid-back atmosphere at Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Swim. In his latest collection, Mr.

continued on page 8



GIDEON OBERSON

one-shoulder Masai plaid sundress; a hand-dyed muslin shrug topping an empire jersey dress and an elegant group of charmeuse dresses.

According to ANNA SUI her inspiration was the art deco period, however we found stronger '40s influences throughout the collection updated in her own inimitable way. This was one of the liveliest shows of fashion week, with layers of color, pattern and accessories striking just the right upbeat note. Don't dismiss the collection as just flash and dazzle as Sui has a laser eye when it comes to what her customers want — a bit of rock'n'roll mixed with downtown chic. Think Lisa Marie Presley and her daughter who were sitting in the front row. Opening the show, there was homage to jive with shorts, wide leg trousers and jumpsuits in glen plaid paired with printed crepe de chine blouses. Still in that '40s mode was a striking black/white "ziggy" stripe, fitted sateen jacket and shorts. This stripe reappeared in a terrific sateen coat shown atop a cerulean abstract checkerboard print blouse and crisp white linen shorts. After dark, Sui proposed a charming rhinestone belted silver metallic puff sleeved dress with hip stitched pleat skirt.

VERA WANG continues to march to her own drummer with carefully engineered cuts, volume and dramatic mixes of textures and proportions. Details include bibs of colorful stones and metal bullion thread cut into collars, necklaces and ornaments of flowers and leaves, both sewn on and accessorizing the

clothes. Fabrics include techno silk twill and organza, wool gauze, jersey, heavy linen, peau de soie and metallic basket weaves. Referencing ancient Rome, a charcoal washed charmeuse toga dress over rust organza T-shirt and jeweled bib and a silver Lurex asymmetrically draped toga top over purple washed duchesse satin cargo boy shorts. Simply gorgeous was Wang's grass green silk tulle pleated gown with forest metallic bullion bib and her ivory Fortuny-like silk jersey plisse gown.

CARLOS MIELE's Latin heritage shone through in a sensuous, fluid collection inspired by the historical encounter between Frank Sinatra

and Brazilian musician Antônio Carlos Jobim. Vibrant colors striking against soft neutral tones were mixed with photographic prints inspired by Miele's travels. Working this mix was a lovely light gray tropical wool jacket and shorts atop a lime silk charmeuse shirt and a cherry blossom print chiffon top over gray tropical wool pants with embroidery detail. Miele really shone after dark with simply gorgeous gowns in pewter, champagne or silver charmeuse detailed with either metal mesh, embroidery or ruffled chiffon bolero.



LACOSTE

FULL CIRCLE

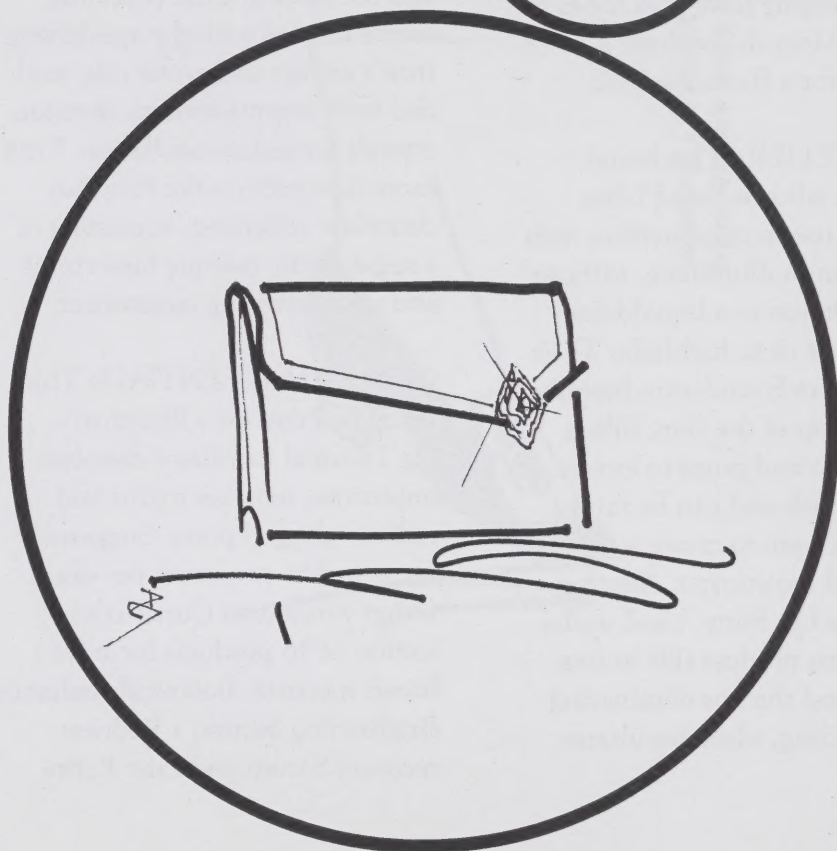
That old adage, "what goes around, comes around" resonated with this reporter who recently attended the Manhattan Vintage Clothing Show and sale. This time we kept our focus strictly on accessories. Interestingly enough, we noted the similarities between the vintage items and the accessory collections shown for fall/holiday 07.

In both cases, with fashion striking a somewhat somber note (particularly in regards to the dark color palette), more than ever, the right choice of shoe or handbag, becomes a focal point and can make or break a look. So, retro or modern, here's what stood out in terms of trends: texture, shine, metallic (especially silver), hardware and jeweled embellishments and a predominance of bold black and white colors.

While 85 of the nation's finest vintage dealers presented their collections, the following captured our attention.

PATINA, a New York based boutique known for its discriminating selections of clothing and accessories, specializing in high quality mid-century designs offered a terrific range of handbags. We took note of an array of black and white bags, from a mod '60s tote featuring clear plastic circles to a chic metallic silver leather clutch detailed with an angled flap closure and jeweled clasp. Clutch bags are a major fall fashion trend and Patina's was one of the best we've seen. TANGERINE BOUTIQUE out of Massachusetts offered a silver kid Mary Jane '60s, square toed pump with chunky mid heel that could pass for Miu Miu. From Albany came DAYBREAK, who

continued on page 7



PATINA

ABOUT FACE

Consumers will be faced with a plethora of choices when shopping for skin care. Key trends to focus on are cosmeceuticals (with a growing number of dermatologists) and environmentally conscious natural products. In terms of makeup, monochromatic shades are important. Eyes will be dressed in warm metallic shadows and liners, plus soft shimmering and smoky shades. For the look of a natural flush, there are cream to powder blushes with coral tones, the most becoming to all skin types. Check out the following resources for some of the best makeup/skincare, bath and body products and the latest fragrance offerings.

RENEE STERN COSMETICS: This noted beauty and color authority has just launched a line of color "eye jewels" available in 30 shades, ranging from gem tones to neutrals. Most shades have a bit of shimmer for a flattering look.

FACE ATELIER: This brand offers five silicone-based Ultra Sheers to use in combination with foundation to illuminate, without the foundation as a liquid blush and bronzer or to highlight. Their oil free Ultra Foundation literally floats on top of the skin, filling in tiny lines and pores to ensure a smooth finish and can be mixed with face cream to create a custom tinted moisturizer. Another key item is Lip Putty. Used under lipstick, this product fills in fine lines around the lips eliminating color bleeding, while simultane-

ously providing organic ultra-violet protection.

CLASSIFIED COSMETICS: We fell in love with the Era Face spray on foundation, spray on bronzers and their makeup primer. Celebrity makeup artist/founder Yolanda Halston created her line of spray on makeup after five years of research addressing the needs of post-cosmetic surgery skin. Because of her efforts, anyone can enjoy a fast and flawless airbrush finish free of contamination that's good for the skin.

BELLA LUCCE: This is a line of more than 50 luxurious natural bath and body care products. Sounding good enough to eat is the pink grapefruit foaming cleanser packed with vitamin E, passion fruit, fig and aloe extracts, and the pomegranate polishing crème infused with the age-defying fruit's extract and exotic oils, studied with tiny microderm abrasion crystals for gentle exfoliation. Even more delectable is the Peruvian chocolate collection, consisting of a sugar scrub, masque bliss crème and skin softening moisturizer.

CORNELIA ESSENTIALS: This renowned day spa's Retexturizing Thermal Exfoliator dissolves impurities, removes toxins and reduces clogged pores. Suggested use is one to two times per week. Other winners in Cornelia's collection of 16 products includes a broad spectrum botanical Radiance Brightening Serum, a Redness recovery Serum and Line Refin-

ing Eye Complex designed to help promote cell regeneration. Also noteworthy, the Cornelia Signature Collection of specialized luxury body products formulated with all natural ingredients, minerals and essential nutrients.

TOZZI: This is a line of advanced medical-grade skin care products including a fortified soap free cleanser with green tea polyphenols, vitamins A, C and E and patent pending formulation of CoEnzyme Co-Q10; a green tea cream for dry to normal complexions and a serum for oily to acne prone skin.

C'WATRE OCEANIC SKIN CARE: This emerging skin care leader utilizes pure and powerful molecularly stimulated ocean water designed to refresh, revitalize and rejuvenate all skin types. The nutrient rich Kanreki cream restores lipid levels for optimal moisture-oil balance. Ingredients include amino acids and anti-oxidants, modified seawater, peptides, copper, zinc and mannitol, plus salicylic acid and sweet almond oil.

THERAPY SYSTEMS: On the cusp of anti-aging skincare technology is Coffee Cherry Reparative face serum. It's lightweight, fast absorbing and made with the pure extract of coffee cherry, a powerful super-antioxidant ingredient that also acts as a natural UV protector. It also effectively stabilizes free radicals before they cause harm to the skin.

continued on page 9

showed a terrific handbag selection. Outstanding was the structured black box calf top handled bag with gilt metal closure and the doctor's bag in faux lizard. There was also a wonderful vintage '60s green pump with black cap toes and cut steel buckle, as well as off-white Charles Jourdan '80s peep toe platforms with carved gold heels. New York dealer, TANUSHA'S CLOSET had a range of clutch bags in pieced snakeskin à la Carlos Falchi in wonderful jewel and earth tones, while MARIE A. BRADLEY displayed an assortment of antique fabric clutches and also some beaded versions. VINTAGE WITH A TWIST had lovely beige/peach silk brocade pumps from the '30s, cool mod black silk pumps with Lucite heels, and very of the moment looking crocodile platform shoes from the '40s. MARA caught our attention with a classic brown leather Gucci hobo detailed with gold GG initials on the flap closure and the navy velvet D&G knee high boots with sexy red stiletto heels edged in gold. Adding even more drama were the diagonal red trompe l'oeil straps. There were also great boots from Connecticut dealer, RHIANNON'S TREASURES. These funky knee high silver snake boots had a space age "Austin Powers" vibe. We coveted a range of '80s icon Maud Frison pumps at COLUMBUS VINTAGE TREASURES. Particularly chic was a pair in suede with two-tone metallic kid cone heels. OLIVE'S VERY VINTAGE had the perfect black patent '60s pump from iconic designer Joseph La Rosa. It featured square

toes, chunky mid heels and "ivory" elongated buckles, the latter a key design component courtesy of Roger Vivier and Tory Burch. New Jersey dealer PATRICIA JON displayed a range of black/white vintage shoes in patent and calf. Highlights included her checked spectators and the zebra stripe pointy-toed pumps. While YULIA'S BAGS specialize in vintage clothing, jewelry and handbags, it was the latter category that really stood out. To die for was a brown leather oversized doctor's bag, a polished calf gusseted handbag with metallic top handle, the matte brown crocodile satchel, the two-tone clutches and a great selection of oversized weekend carryalls in rich jewel toned velvet.

For those of you who just can't get enough of vintage apparel and accessories, be sure to check out the New Hope Pennsylvania-based

CHARLES A. WHITAKER AUCTION COMPANY, America's only auction house specializing exclusively in the sale of couture clothing, laces, linens, textiles, fashion accessories and fashion-related objects. For further information on upcoming auctions held twice yearly in the fall and spring visit their website at www.whitakerauction.com or call: 215 817-4600. Fax: 215 844-8283.

For information on the next Manhattan Vintage Clothing Show, call 518-434-4312 or visit www.manhattanvintage.com



JOSEPH LA ROSA
from Olive's Very Vintage

Slama successfully takes-on the alchemy between art, history, fashion and attitude. While showing select pieces from the collection, the designer spoke of his inspiration for the 2008 line.

I was inspired by the Tropicalism movement that took place at the end of the 1960's. Tropicalism was a bunch of movements mixed together – Surrealism mixed with music, and poetry. What is especially interesting is that it was an attempt to take what was a success on a local level and make it universal. In the case of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, they were able to take their music from their part of England and turn it into an international sensation.

Bringing it back to the here and now, Mr. Slama believes that what women want right now is comfort. While recently in New York, he noticed "many young women wearing casual dresses that could easily go from the beach to the streets and vice-versa". Consequently, there were a good number of beautiful cover-ups in strong colors on the racks that were far more sophisticated than a basic sarong. There are resort wear pieces mixed in, such as dresses featuring plunging necklaces inspired by Parangoles, the famous moving sculptures by Brazilian artist Helio Oiticica. Also on the line are floaty shifts, bubble tops and dresses. Sometimes a (swim) suit is more than just a suit, exemplified by the intricately hand-embroidered nude bikini with Jayne Mansfield style pleat work

that qualifies as couture. It's so exquisitely made that you'll want to keep it in your bathing suit collection for years to come.

The hair and makeup was straight out of a Beach Boy song. The Beach Boys might well have been singing about the models that artist Rob Scheppy styled to walk for Rosa Cha. When asked how to get the beach tousled locks that he achieved, says Rob, "Roller set your hair, letting it out at the last moment when it's hot and humid. Next, put in some pomade and move it around with your hand until you like the way it looks."

BADGLEY MISCHKA

While we loved the accessories that were liberally piled on, in its debut, the swimwear itself fell somewhat flat and didn't seem representative of what the talented design team would produce. The designers did a good job styling the show though and showed a multitude of their licensed products including: shoes, handbags, jewelry, sunglasses, hats and, of course, the swimsuits. Badgley Mischka customers will be sure to pick up the great floppy straw hats with colorful print scarves tied around the brim, as well as some of the look at me necklaces, such as the gold rope with an oversize amber pendant. The sunglasses were oversize and ultra glam. The bags were spot on, large and structured. Best was the silver bowling bag (gray is THE color for fall). The suits themselves were more for the woman who lounges, not plunges into the pool. The rhinestone buckle details on

the breastbone, shoulders and hips are just not chlorine friendly. Many designers are dropping in some resort pieces in their swim collections, so it made sense to show the matte jersey olive column evening gown. Best in show: the ruched halter maillot worn with a small matching turban and the toned down lamé tankini. These two suits seemed more in keeping with the Badgley Mishka RTW aesthetic and, hopefully, we will be seeing more pieces like this next time around.

RED CARTER

Backstage, designer Red Carter appeared relaxed for someone who was about to have a fashion show. He stopped to give us the highlights of the upcoming show. "We're doing the theme thing, it's a mix of safari, burlesque/cabaret, and techno-eighties which is athletic inspired. The point is that we're not natural beings, and we're making fun of it here."

Perhaps, most exciting were the bags that we saw hanging on the racks that were launching that very evening. The styles are classic silhouettes, many with removable liners in the same effective prints he uses for his suits and sportswear. The one that really caught our eye though was an oversized black nylon tote with a snowflake created from round and square orange Lucite chips. From his perch up in the heavens, the late Stephen Sprouse must be smiling.

Backstage, we also watched MAC artist Lara Vickery as she pulled

CLIVE CHRISTIAN: One of Britain's most prestigious brands offers a range of incredibly complex natural perfumes, presented in individually designed luxury bottles and cases. Launching in October is XArtwork, two limited edition (1,000) fragrances for women and men, designed to translate the invisible world of perfume through visual imagery. Each flacon features illustrations of Egyptian jasmine (women) or the scepter of kings (men).

JULIE HEWETT: We loved the "Noir" collection of lipsticks and matching lip pencils. The former are long lasting, pigmented lipsticks with the essence of rosebud and camellia oils. The range consists of six reds and three sheers. Also noteworthy, the ora mineral powder formulated from natural pigments, freeze-dried vitamins and plant extracts. Available in three shades plus translucent "oat", the powders contain a natural sun protection. For a healthy sun kissed glow there's a mineral bronzing powder with SPF8.

ALAUUR: Noted dermatologist Dr. Albert Lefkowitz's skincare collection features Meristem, a natural botanical protein extract found in the reproductive cells of the rot of a particular species of oak tree. This skin care component purports to be an extraordinary anti-oxidant/anti-aging ingredient. It improves elasticity of collagen tissue and soothes and helps heal skin without irritation. Included in the line is a cleansing lotion, deep cleansing cream and exfoliator, peel-off mask,

toner, facial moisturizers, plus a body lotion, hand cream and alpha hydroxy pre-moisturizing treatment.

COVER FX: This is a line of cosmetic skincare products. The pure mineral powder foundation comes in 21 shades and contains no synthetic dyes, only natural preservatives and an SPF 15. There's also an eye/face makeup remover and a treatment priming serum, both offered in airless pump dispensers.

VICTORIA'S SECRET: This well known intimate apparel brand introduces its Very Sexy makeup, a tightly edited collection of 30 high-performance formulas and 200 runway ready cosmetic shades. From glosses, to lipsticks, to bronzers and in finishes from sultry sheer to all-out glitter, this range has it all. In short — everything a woman needs to project that Victoria's Secret sex appeal.

ARROJO: This is a high-performance vitamin B5 boosted line of hair care products that are anti-oxidizing and irritant free. Included in the range is a daily shampoo and conditioner infused with organic rhubarb extracts, and a number of effective styling products from a defrizzing serum to a texture paste for separation and a smooth matte finish, and non-aerosol holding spray.

BORGHESE: The crucial role of vitamin C in cell activity is essential to collagen synthesis as well as other immune functions. The technologies that paved the way

for the vitamin's performance and skin supporting function are applied to Borghese's Cura-C collection. Included in this capsule range is Cura-C Anhydrous Vitamin C body treatment, plus a facial vitamin treatment for a smooth complexion and an intensive, specially targeted eye treatment that fights the appearance of time, fatigue and environmental damage.

ALTERNA: This is a range of hair care formulations designed to improve the look, strength and feel of the hair. The brand's Enzyme-therapy contains components that are essential for promoting healthy hair growth along with providing color fade protection. Standouts include caviar anti-aging Seasilk shampoos and conditioners. The caviar extract is a rich source of Omega-3 fatty acids that over time will improve the hair's overall appearance by 80 percent.

INTERNATIONAL EYE

HOLIDAY HITS

This just in! FI got a peek at some terrific holiday collections at unbelievable prices. We spotted some terrific items from SEARS and KMART. The former showed fashion-forward brocade skirts and a beautifully detailed red suede jacket, in addition to a slew of accessories. At Kmart there's a winter white puff jacket that's a must-have.

Offering cold comfort is the reversible goose down coat from LANDS' END. Available in three different lengths and seven colors, the coat features invisible zippers and pockets. Adding a warm touch are hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and winter boots in coordinating styles and fabrics ranging from cashmere to faux shearling. Baby it's cold outside — not if your bundled up in EDDIE BAUER's premium goose down accessories and embroidered down vests. We especially love the muffler with pockets for warming cold hands. Great for gift giving are plaid and snowflake sleepwear sets and cozy shearling slippers.

SEPHORA has holiday gift giving all wrapped up. Literally. At its recent press event there was an abundance of choices from all the major beauty brands, many exclusive to Sephora. Highlights included LAURA GELLER's BAKED to perfection, a limited edition gift set featuring an array of multicolored powders for face, cheeks and eyes; CAUDALIE's exclusive Spa in a Box vine-based treats in a chic, magnetic reusable box; BARE ESCENTUALS Classic Rock Diamond collection kit containing a host of makeup items plus a pearly white carry-all; and BEST OF BENEFIT's — a beautifully boxed, limited edition gift set with mascara, eye pencil and bronzer/blush. All of the above collections are available exclusively at Sephora.

two trends from the RTW Fall shows, graphic and Technicolor. Graphic was achieved using white and gold eyeliners to create a frame around the eye. Technicolor came via a vivid orange matte lipstick. The only thing that remained to finish the look was some bronzer and contour blush to pop the models' already razor sharp cheekbones.

The "Best Hair" award for this year's round of shows goes to Oribe and his talented team (they've been working for Red from the beginning), who never disappoint when it comes to creating knock out hair for Red's show. This time, to go with the techno theme, the Oribe team used black, obviously synthetic, wigs that looked just like the tinsel used to decorate Christmas trees. The wigs were cut into severe bobs with Cleopatra bangs. One special wig was Pippi Longstocking red, worn by the model with whom Red took his victory lap at show's end.

On our way from backstage to the tent, where we would view the show, we had a few words with John Marazza, Red Carter's business partner. He and Red are taking the slow and steady as it goes approach, and keeping their operation internal. This is a relief to hear after our having witnessed many talented designers come and go, many jumping too far, too fast, only to find that they had to cancel shows, and worse, flounder about in search of a new backer to come to their rescue. Mr. Marazza was particularly bullish about the addition of sportswear to the line and tipped us off that we'd be seeing

some great cover-ups in silk and pima cotton that would transition from the pool to lunch and cocktails. He called the response that they were receiving at the Miami Convention Center where potential buyers were also inspecting the latest collection — "excellent".

It's only Mr. Carter's third show season, but he's already a certified star, which was apparent from the pre-show excitement and mob scene. The well-produced show reminded us of John Galliano's in their flair for theatricality. Like Mr. Galliano, Mr. Carter is a skilled showman. He opened Part I with a Miami Beach tropical fruit salad that included a lace-up coral halter suit and a punchy floral print bikini with patch pockets, one on each nipple. The nude cut out maillot with aqua/red geometric print resembled the beadwork on Native American clothing. This Pocahontas look brought us back in time to John Galliano's Indian tribe Pocahontas collection. Animal prints look new again, thanks to Red's oversized leopard print pieces shot with Swarovski crystals. The Burlesque/Cabaret had one of the few men's looks shown on the runway. The black monokini with a black and white grosgrain belt will be a hard act for most guys to follow, but not impossible with some hard work at the gym. The new clear handbag, with removable liners in wild prints, added to the '80s vibe of a solid turquoise one-piece edged with black piping. The cut out suits in lime and black would have been scooped up by '80s "glamazons" Grace Jones and Brigitte Nielsen.

FUTURE RTW SHOW DATES 2008

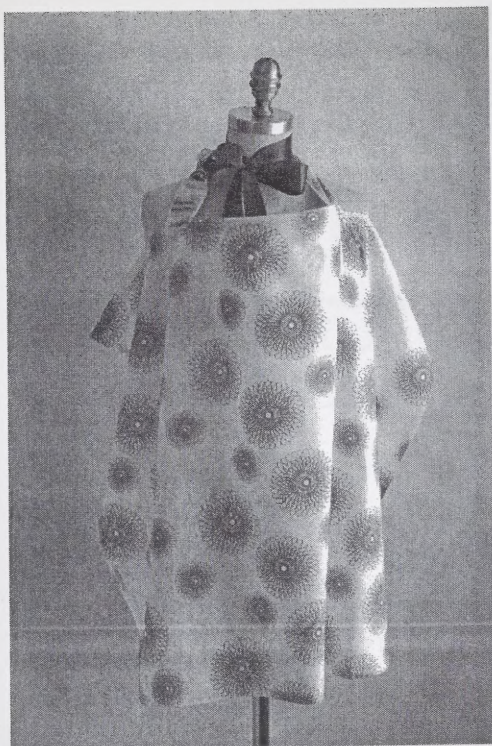
New York
February 1-8

London
February 10-16

Milan
February 18-25

Paris
February 26- March 4

Los Angeles
March 16-20

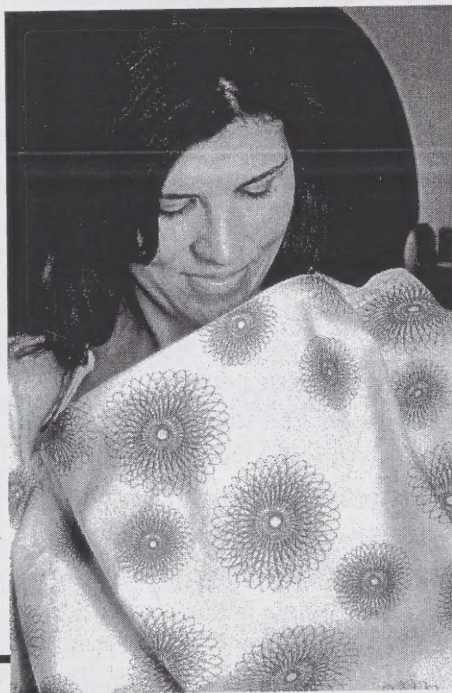


Bébé au Lait and Hooter Hiders nursing covers are available in upscale maternity shops and baby boutiques. www.bebeaulait.com

FASHION FORWARD MOMMIES

A Stylish Solution to One of Early Motherhood's Most Cumbersom Duties

Breastfeeding a baby for traveling and on-the-go moms can be a tricky task. Especially if you're a fashion-forward mom with a desire to be discreet, while taking care of the baby's needs. Bébé au Lait and Hooter Hiders has come up with a way for mothers to stylishly nurse discreetly in public. Their nursing covers come in a variety of patterns and colors and are easily laundered. The rigid neckline provides an opening that allows baby and mother to see each other, which engenders bonding. So, both baby and mother are happy!



INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

DEC. 7-9 NEW YORK
FFANY SHOE EXPO

JAN. 3-14 NEW YORK
NEW YORK FALL I MARKET

JAN. 6-8 MUNICH
BIJOUTEX MÜNCHEN
(Costume Jewelry/Accessories)

JAN. 8-11 NEW YORK
NOUVEAU COLLECTIVE
(Women's RTW/Accessories)

JAN. 9-11 NEW YORK
D&A ANNEX
(Women's RTW/Accessories)

JAN. 9-11 NEW YORK
ACCESSORIESTHESHOW
(Women's Shoes/Accessories)

JAN. 9-11 NEW YORK
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